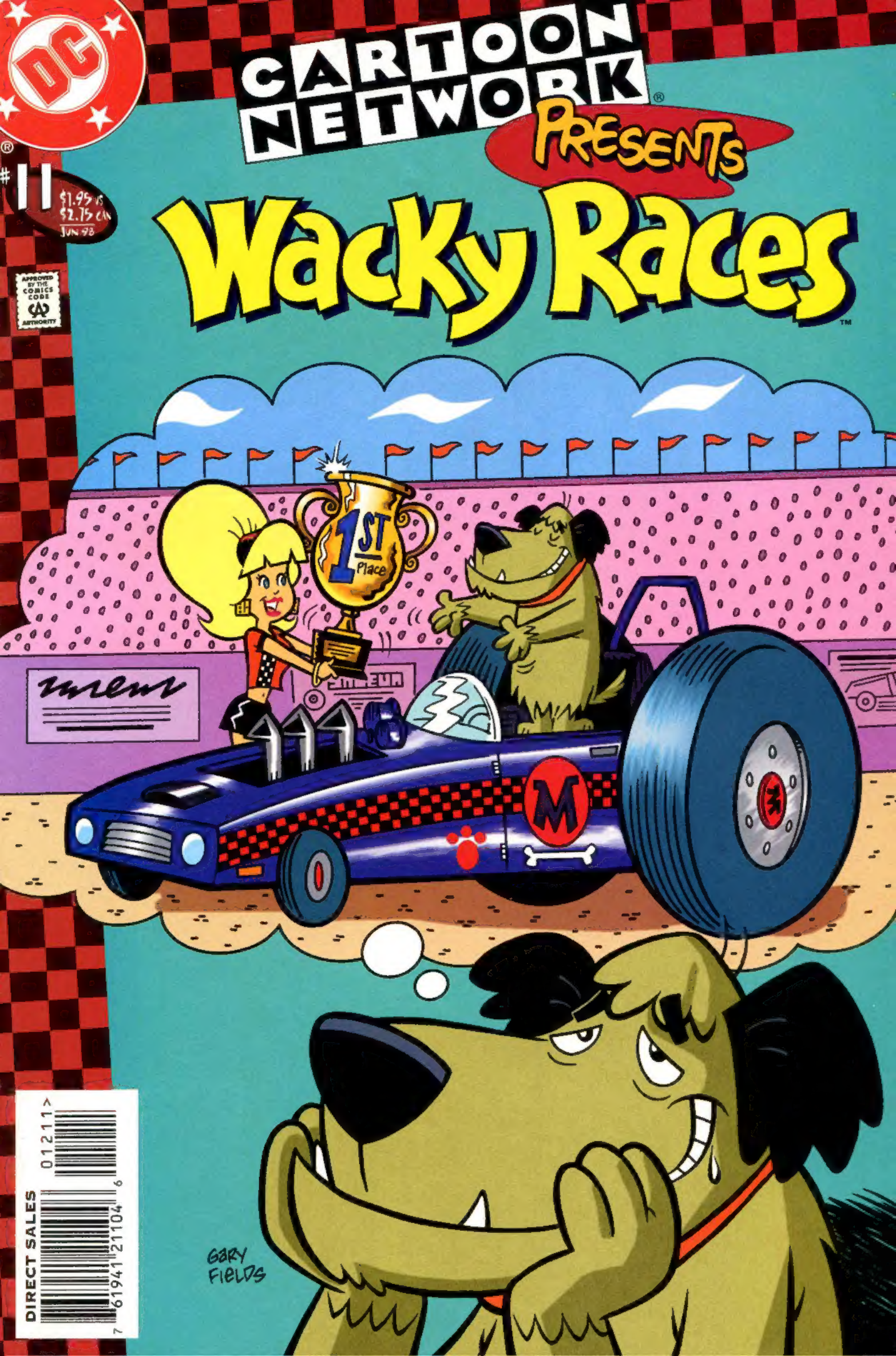
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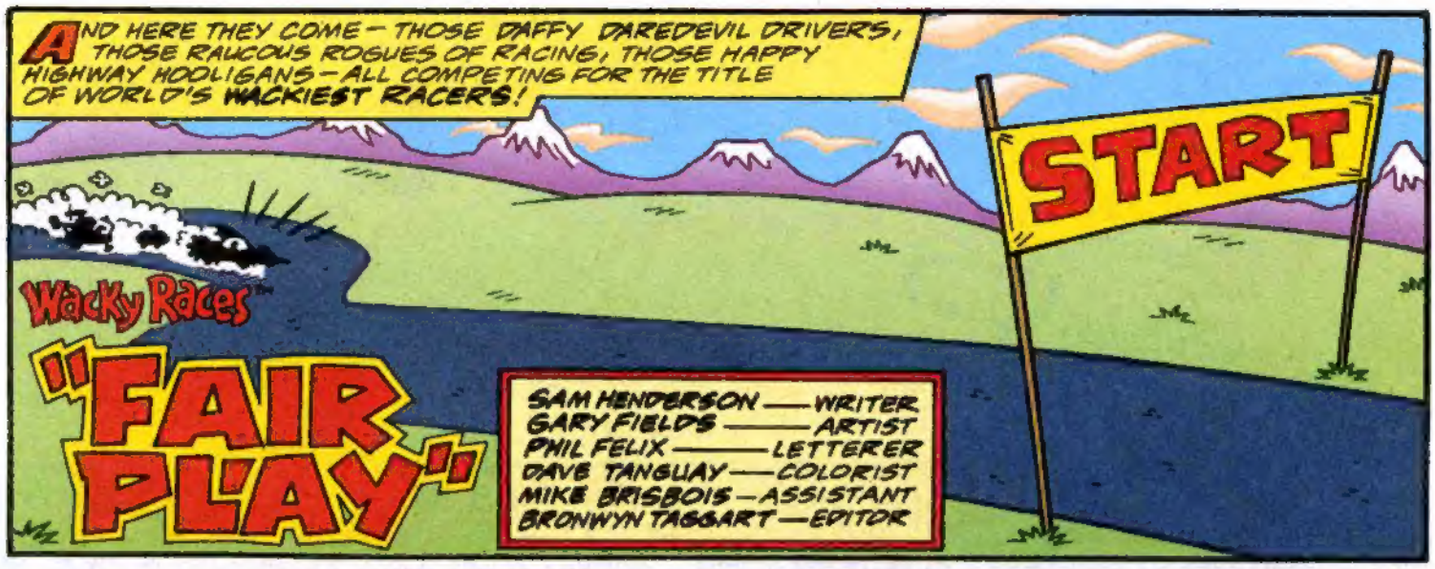
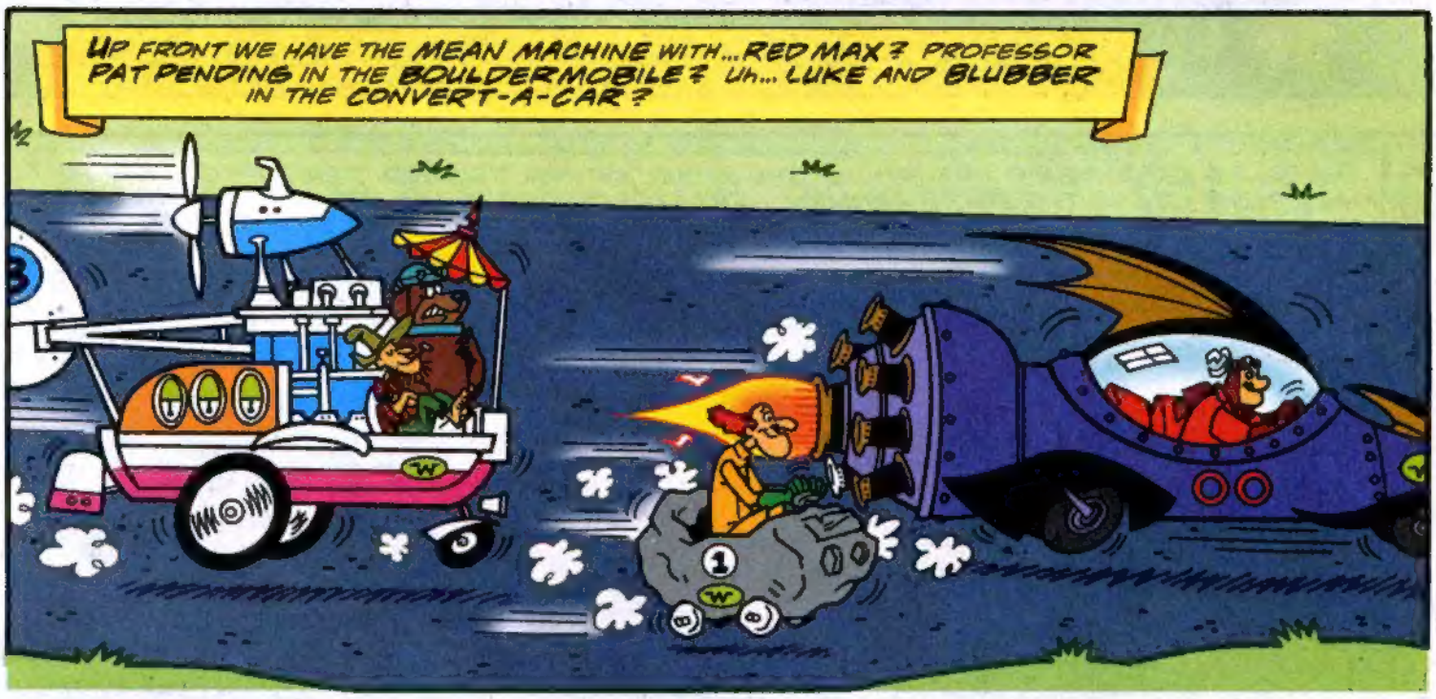

AND HERE THEY COME – THOSE DAFFY DAREDEVIL DRIVERS, THOSE RAUCOUS ROGUES OF RACING, THOSE HAPPY HIGHWAY HOOLIGANS – ALL COMPETING FOR THE TITLE OF WORLD'S WACKIEST RACERS!
START
Wacky Races
"FAIR PLAY"
SAM HENDERSON — WRITER
GARY FIELDS — ARTIST
PHIL FELIX — LETTERER
DAVE TANGUAY — COLORIST
MIKE BRISBOIS — ASSISTANT
BRONWYN TAGGART — EDITOR


UP FRONT WE HAVE THE MEAN MACHINE WITH... RED MAX? PROFESSOR PAT PENDING IN THE BOULDERMOBILE? Uh... LUKE AND BLUBBER IN THE CONVERT-A-CAR?

THEM HIGH-FALOOTIN' CITY FOLK DON'T WANT ANYONE HAVIN' AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE, SO WE-ALL HAS TO DRIVE EACH OTHER'S CARS!
I SEE. I'LL CONTINUE THEN...

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75 YEARS

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NEXT WE HAVE PENELOPE PITSTOP IN THE CREEPY COUPE... PETER PERFECT IN THE CRIMSON HAYBAILER... SERGEANT BLAST AND PRIVATE MEEKLY IN THE COMPACT PUSSYCAT... AND THE GRUESOME TWOSOME DRIVING THE ARMY SURPLUS SPECIAL!

THE SLAG BROTHERS ARE BEHIND THE WHEEL OF THE TURBO TERRIFIC... THE ANT HILL MOB ARE IN THE BUZZWAGON... TRAILING BEHIND IS THE ARKANSAS CHUG-A-BUG POWERED BY RUFUS RUFFCUT AND SAWTOOTH... AND, LAST BUT NOT LEAST, DICK DASTARDLY AND MUTTLEY IN THE BULLETPROOF BOMB.

WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE TODAY'S RACE WILL BE A BIT... ER... INTERESTING, TO SAY THE LEAST.

HERE COMES DICK DASTARDLY PULLING AHEAD. HE SEEMS TO BE TRYING TO WIN THIS RACE HONESTLY. CAN IT BE TRUE?

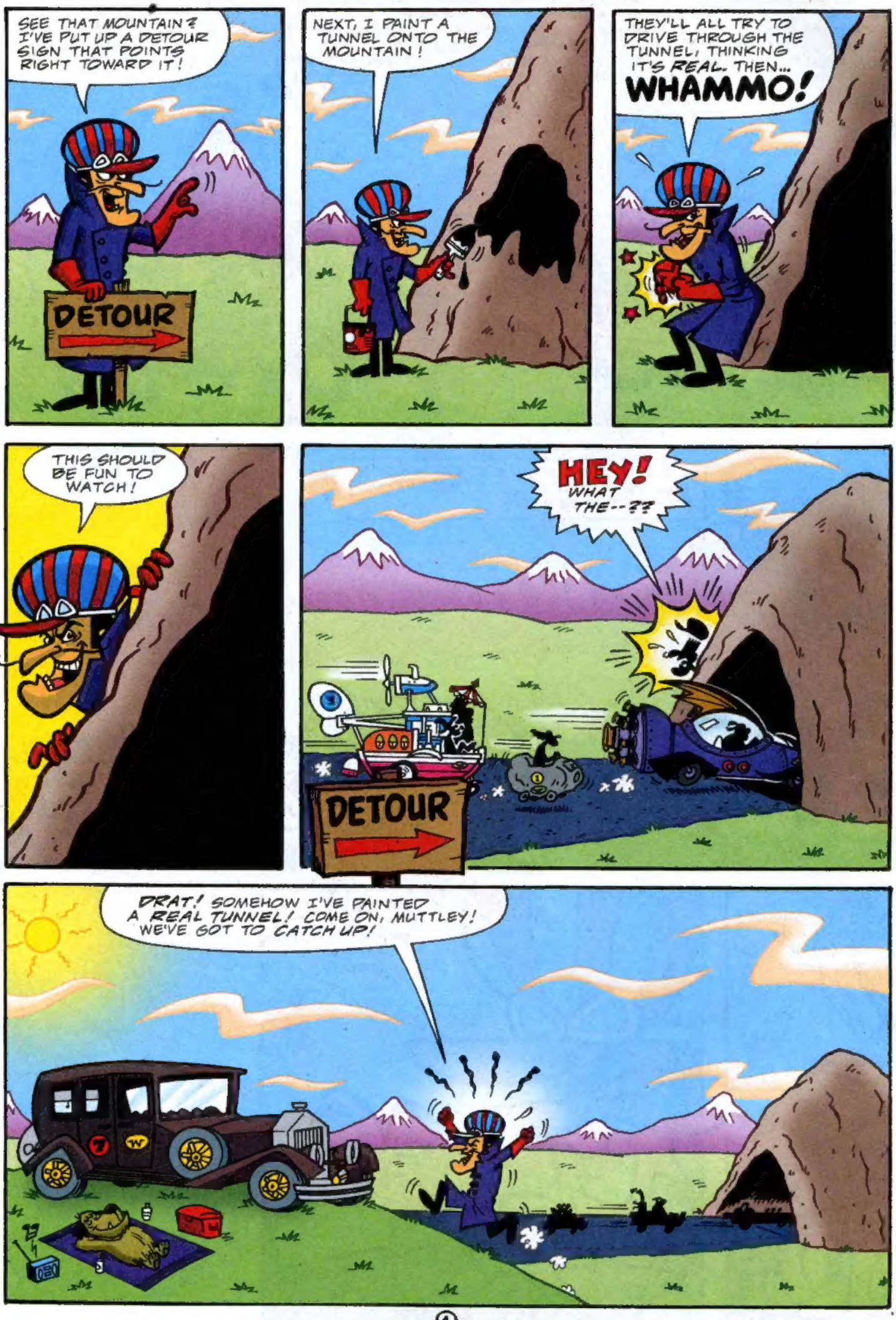
YOU DON'T KNOW ME VERY WELL, DO YOU?

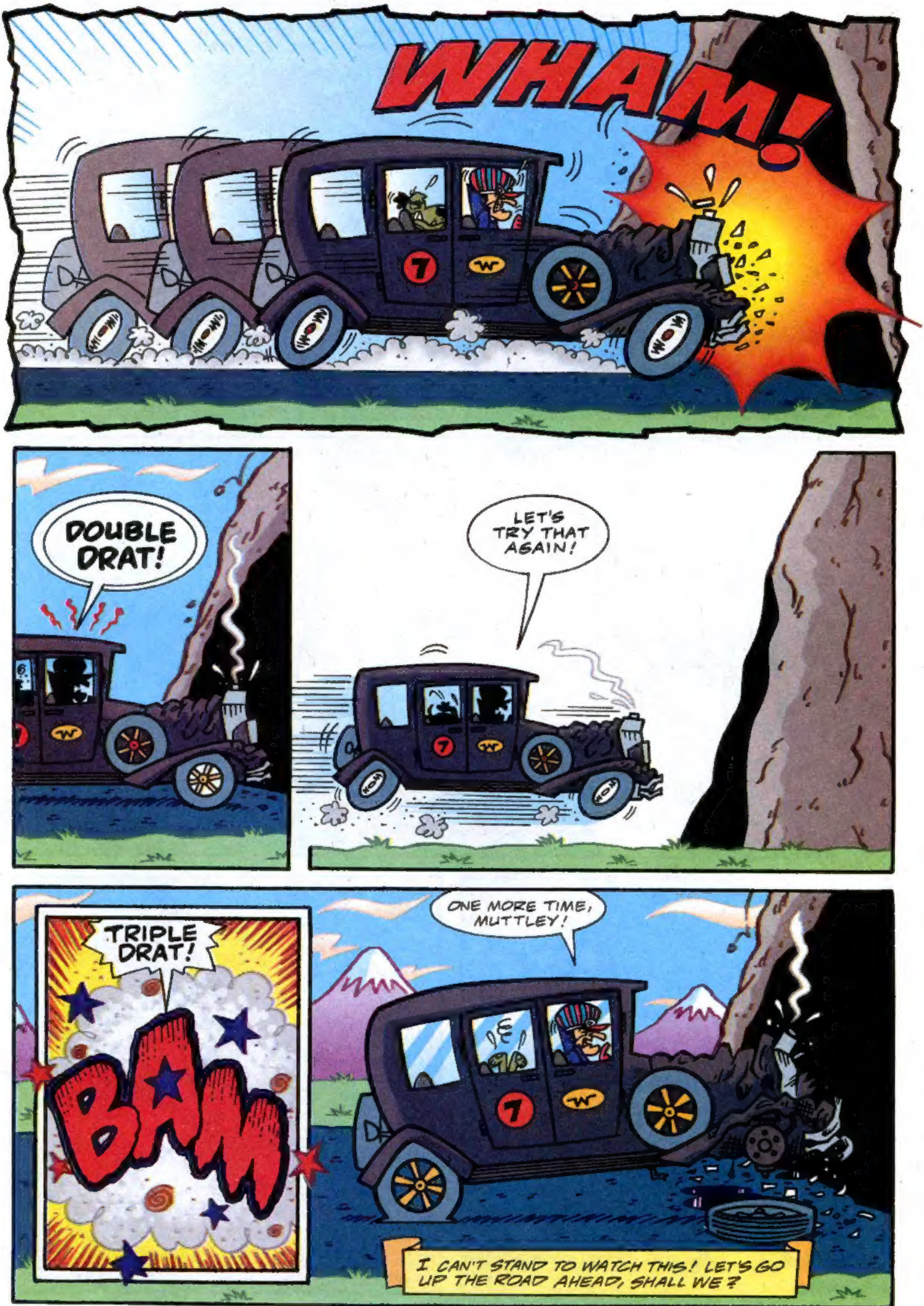
②

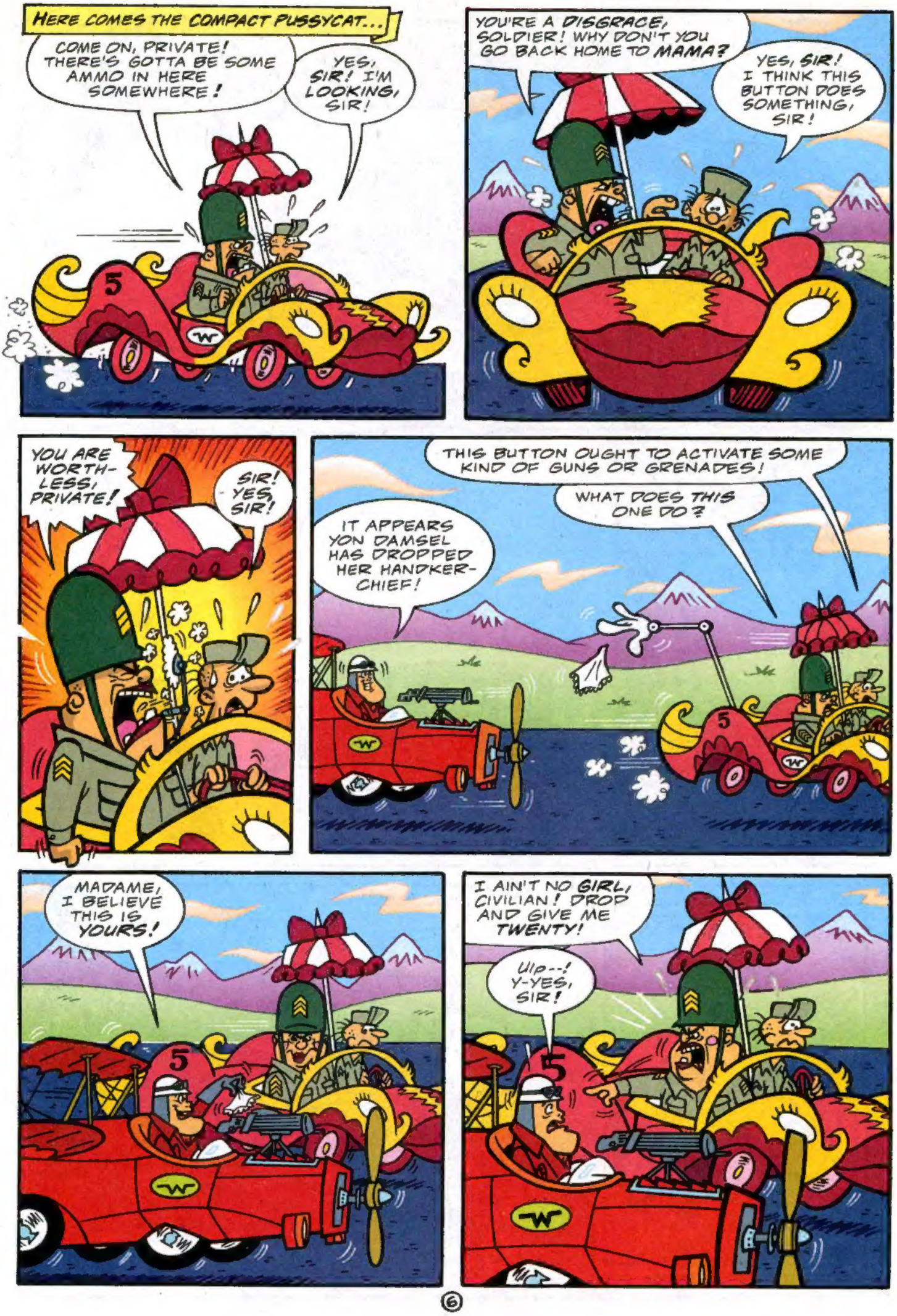
I COULD WIN FAIRLY, BUT WHAT'S THE FUN IN THAT?

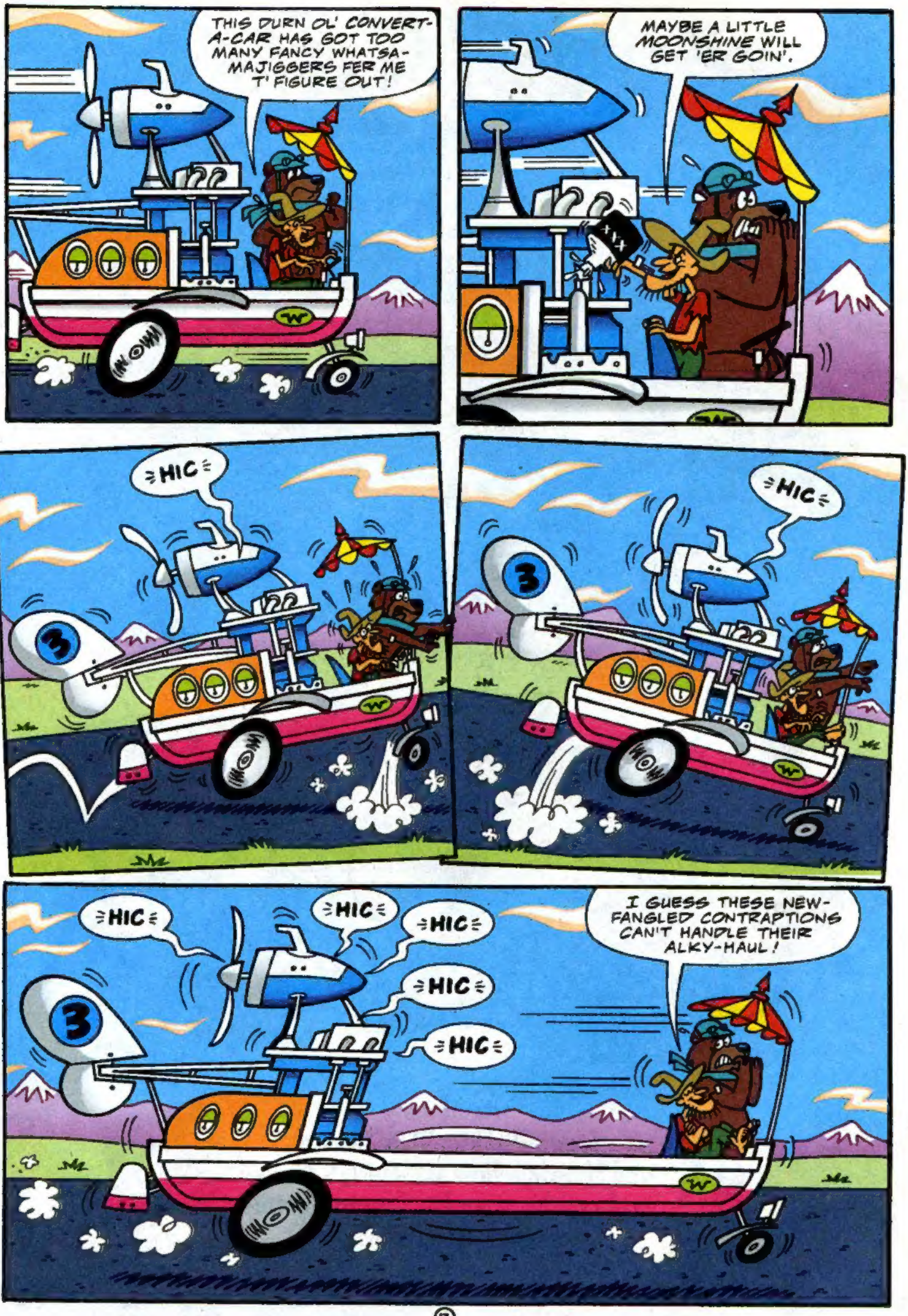
ESPECIALLY WHEN I'M SO GOOD AT BEING BAD!

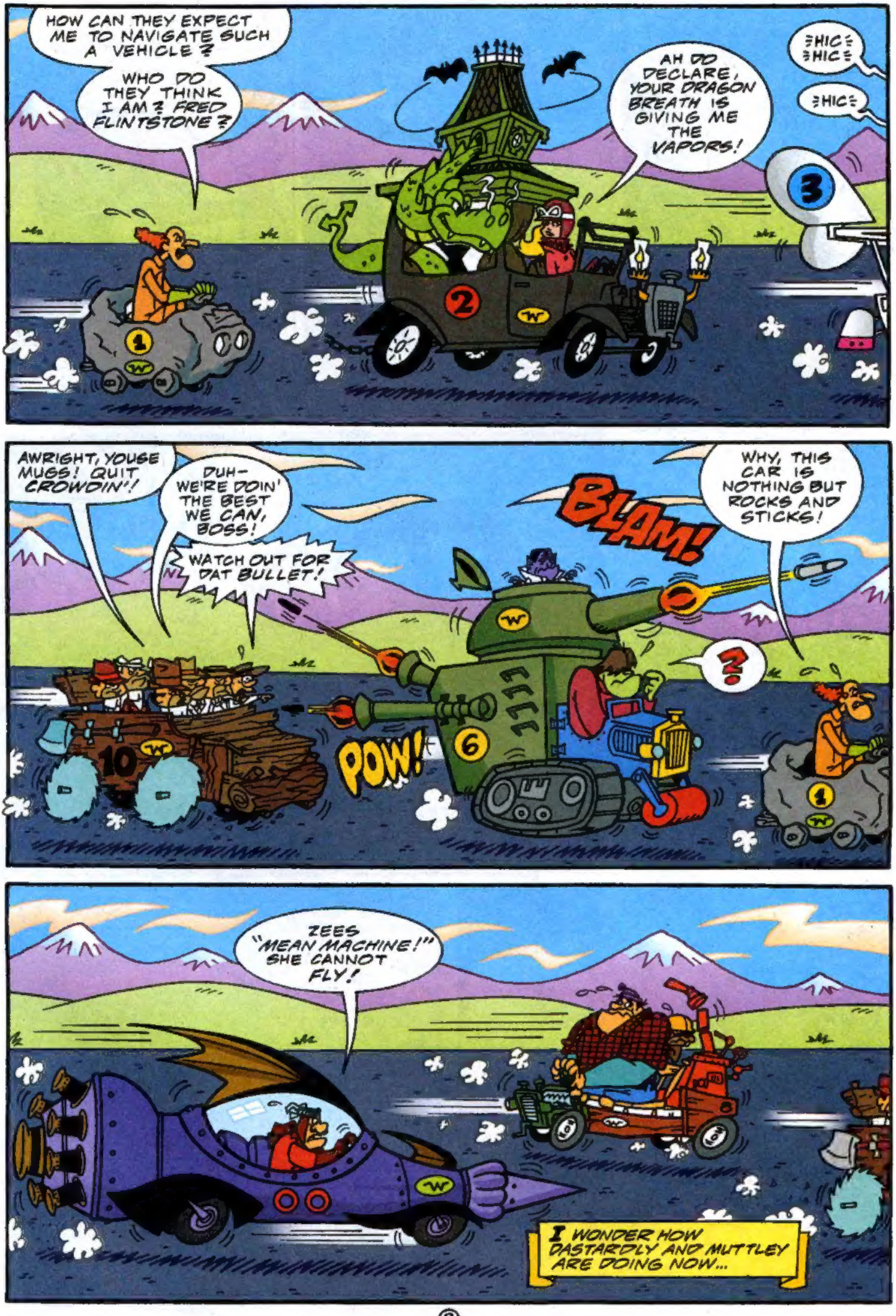
③

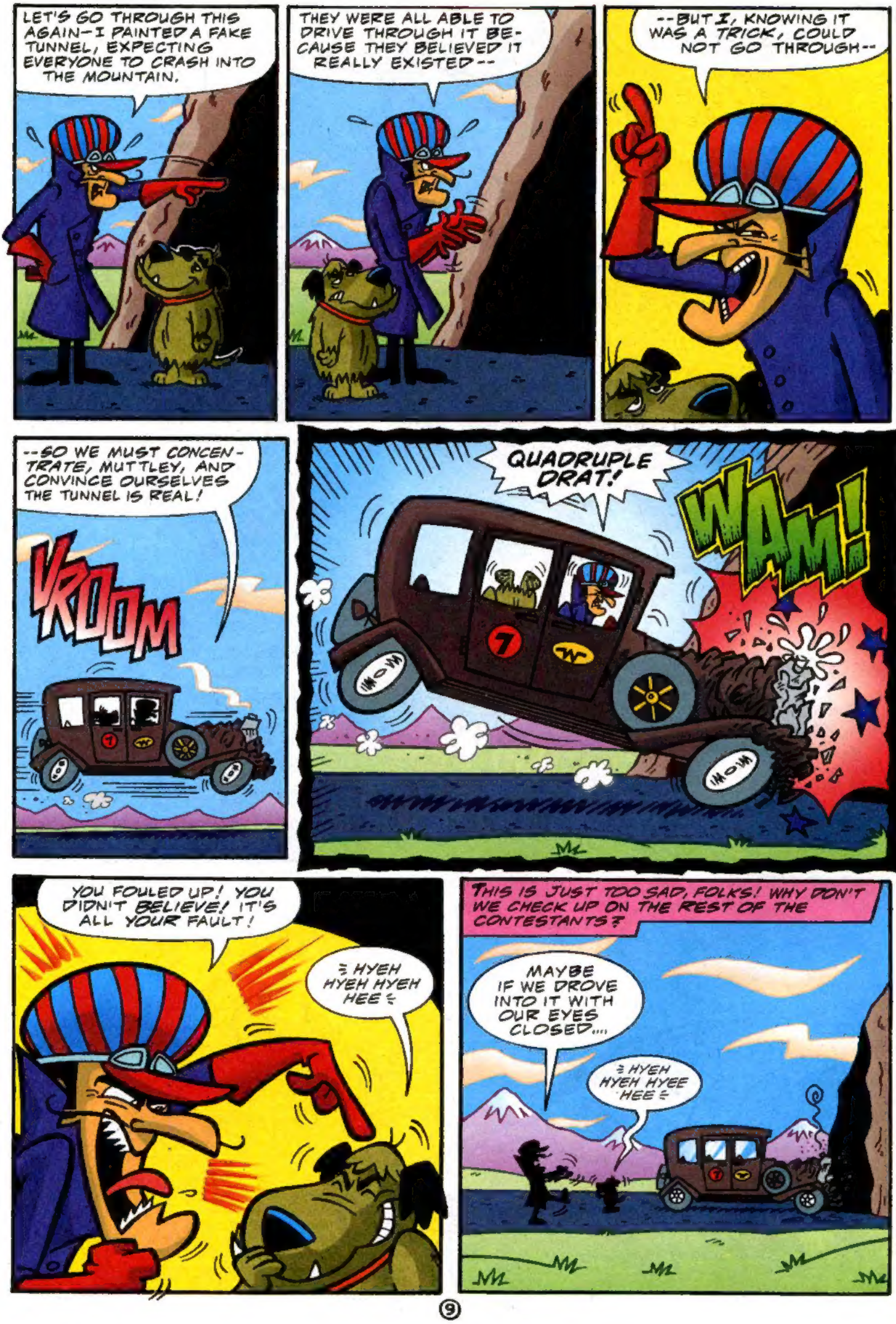

SEE THAT MOUNTAIN? I'VE PUT UP A DETOUR SIGN THAT POINTS RIGHT TOWARD IT!
DETOUR
NEXT, I PAINT A TUNNEL ONTO THE MOUNTAIN!
THEY'LL ALL TRY TO DRIVE THROUGH THE TUNNEL, THINKING IT'S REAL. THEN...
WHAMMO!
THIS SHOULD BE FUN TO WATCH!
HEY! WHAT THE--??
DETOUR
DRAT! SOMEHOW I'VE PAINTED A REAL TUNNEL! COME ON, MUTTLEY! WE'VE GOT TO CATCH UP!


WHAM!
DOUBLE DRAT!
LET'S TRY THAT AGAIN!
TRIPLE DRAT!
BAM
ONE MORE TIME, MUTTLEY!
I CAN'T STAND TO WATCH THIS! LET'S GO UP THE ROAD AHEAD, SHALL WE?

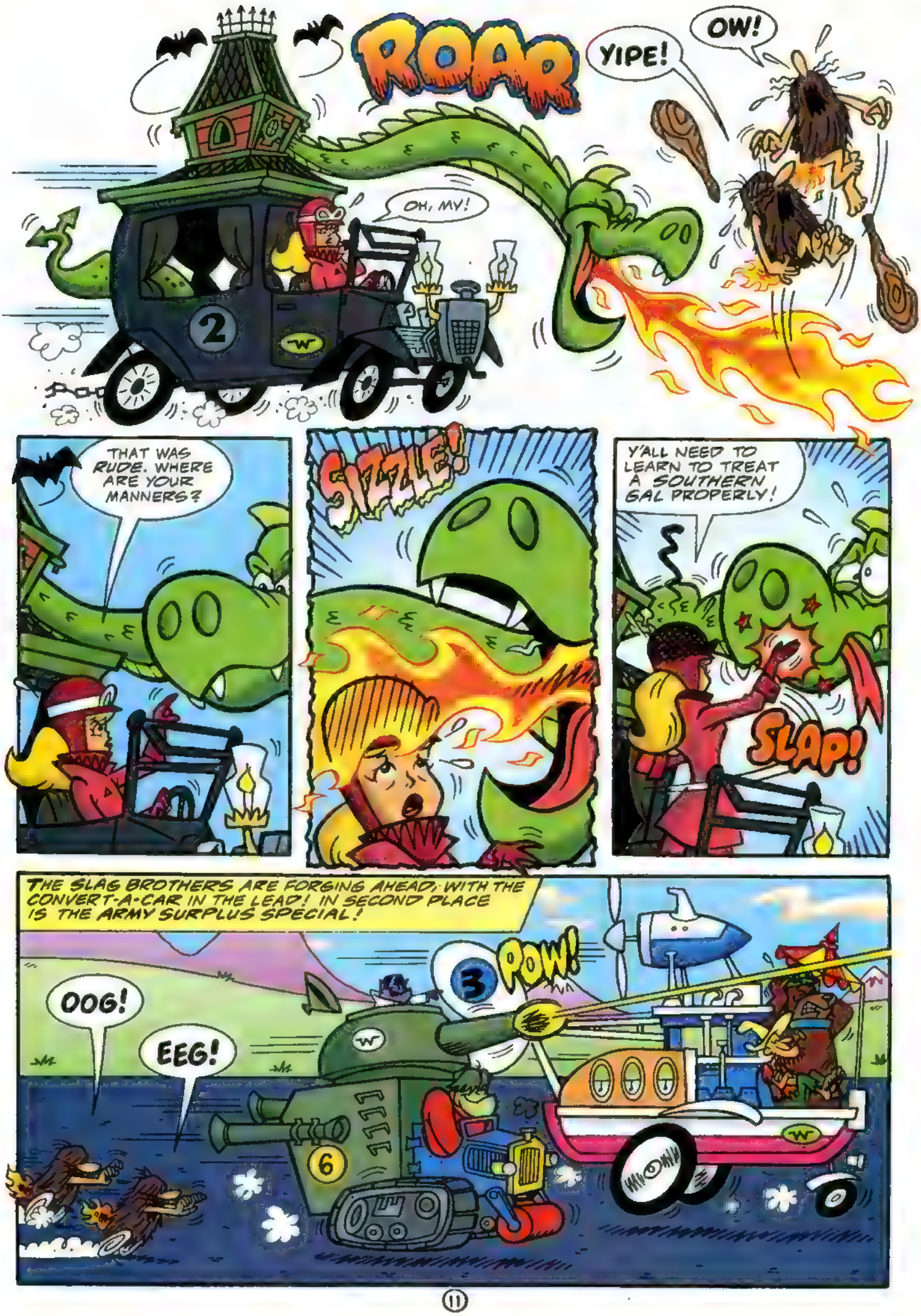

HERE COMES THE COMPACT PUSSYCAT...
COME ON, PRIVATE! THERE'S GOTTA BE SOME AMMO IN HERE SOMEWHERE!
YES, SIR! I'M LOOKING, SIR!
YOU'RE A DISGRACE, SOLDIER! WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK HOME TO MAMA?
YES, SIR! I THINK THIS BUTTON DOES SOMETHING, SIR!
YOU ARE WORTHLESS, PRIVATE!
SIR! YES, SIR!
THIS BUTTON OUGHT TO ACTIVATE SOME KIND OF GUNS OR GRENADES!
WHAT DOES THIS ONE DO?
IT APPEARS YON DAMSEL HAS DROPPED HER HANDKERCHIEF!
MADAME, I BELIEVE THIS IS YOURS!
I AIN'T NO GIRL, CIVILIAN! DROP AND GIVE ME TWENTY!
Ulp--! Y-YES, SIR!

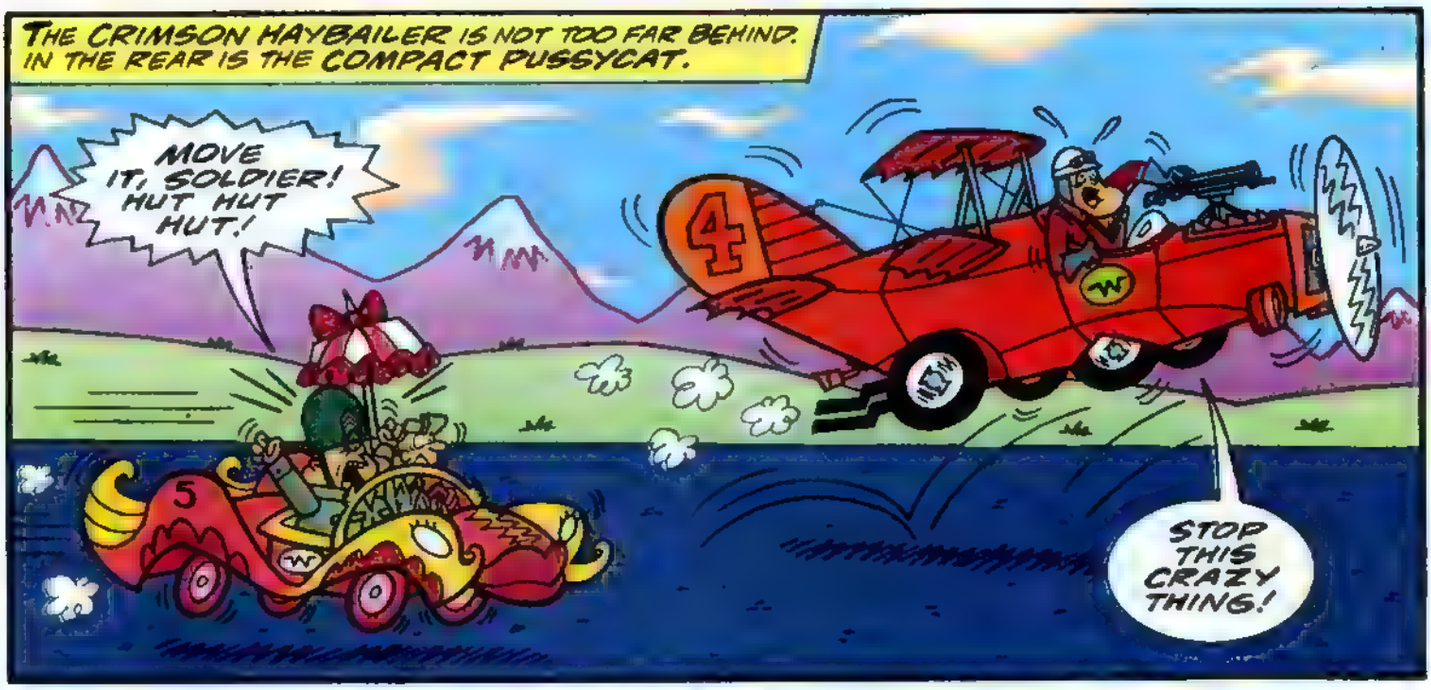

THIS DURN OL' CONVERT-A-CAR HAS GOT TOO MANY FANCY WHATSA-MAJIGGERS FER ME T' FIGURE OUT!
MAYBE A LITTLE MOONSHINE WILL GET 'ER GOIN'.
HIC
HIC
HIC
HIC
HIC
HIC
I GUESS THESE NEW-FANGLED CONTRAPTIONS CAN'T HANDLE THEIR ALKY-HAUL!

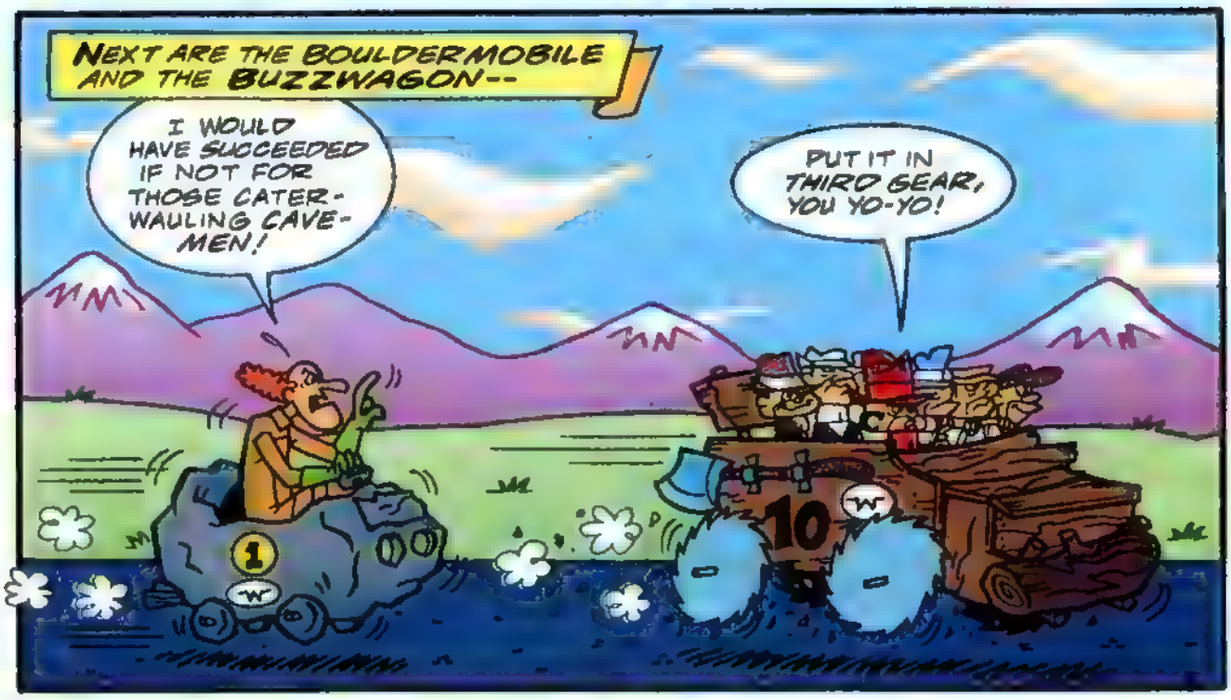

HOW CAN THEY EXPECT ME TO NAVIGATE SUCH A VEHICLE?
WHO DO THEY THINK I AM? FRED FLINTSTONE?
AH DO DECLARE, YOUR DRAGON BREATH IS GIVING ME THE VAPORS!
HIC
HIC
HIC
1
2
3
AWRIGHT, YOUSE MUGS! QUIT CROWDIN'!
DUH- WE'RE DOIN' THE BEST WE CAN, BOSS!
WATCH OUT FOR DAT BULLET!
BLAM!
WHY, THIS CAR IS NOTHING BUT ROCKS AND STICKS!
?
POW!
6
10
1
ZEES "MEAN MACHINE!" SHE CANNOT FLY!
I WONDER HOW DASTARDLY AND MUTTLEY ARE DOING NOW...

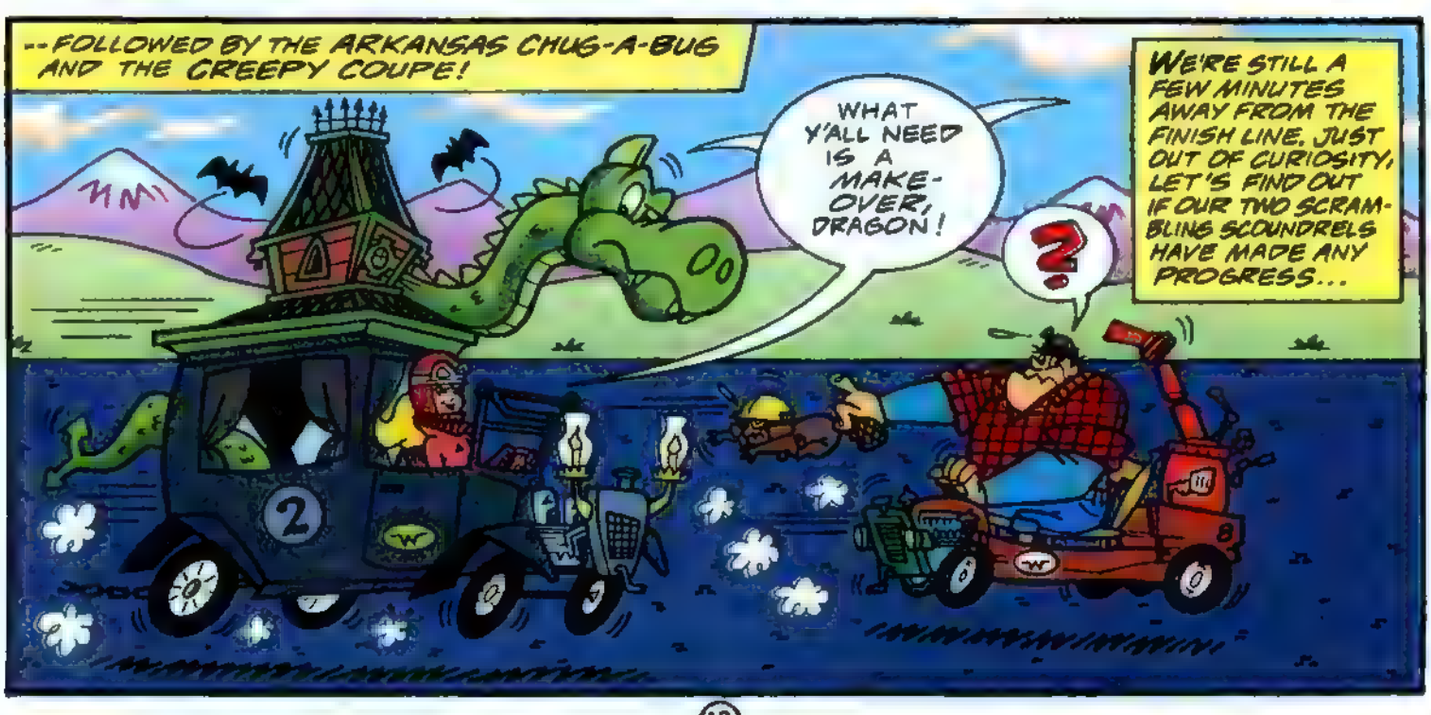

LET'S GO THROUGH THIS AGAIN—I PAINTED A FAKE TUNNEL, EXPECTING EVERYONE TO CRASH INTO THE MOUNTAIN.
THEY WERE ALL ABLE TO DRIVE THROUGH IT BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED IT REALLY EXISTED--
--BUT I, KNOWING IT WAS A TRICK, COULD NOT GO THROUGH--
--SO WE MUST CONCENTRATE, MUTTLEY, AND CONVINCE OURSELVES THE TUNNEL IS REAL!
VROOM
QUADRUPLE DRAT!
WAM!
YOU FOULED UP! YOU DIDN'T BELIEVE! IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!
= HYEH HYEH HYEH HEE =
THIS IS JUST TOO SAD, FOLKS! WHY DON'T WE CHECK UP ON THE REST OF THE CONTESTANTS?
MAYBE IF WE DROVE INTO IT WITH OUR EYES CLOSED....
= HYEH HYEH HYEE HEE =

HERE COME THE SLAG BROTHERS, LAGGING BEHIND THE CREEPY COUPE. HOW ARE YOU HANDLING YOUR NEW CAR, GUYS?
STUPID CAR!
ME HATE CAR!
CAR TOO BIG! WE NOT STRONG ENOUGH!
WE SMASH!
THEY'VE ABANDONED THEIR CAR!
CAN THEY DO THAT?
RAAARGH!

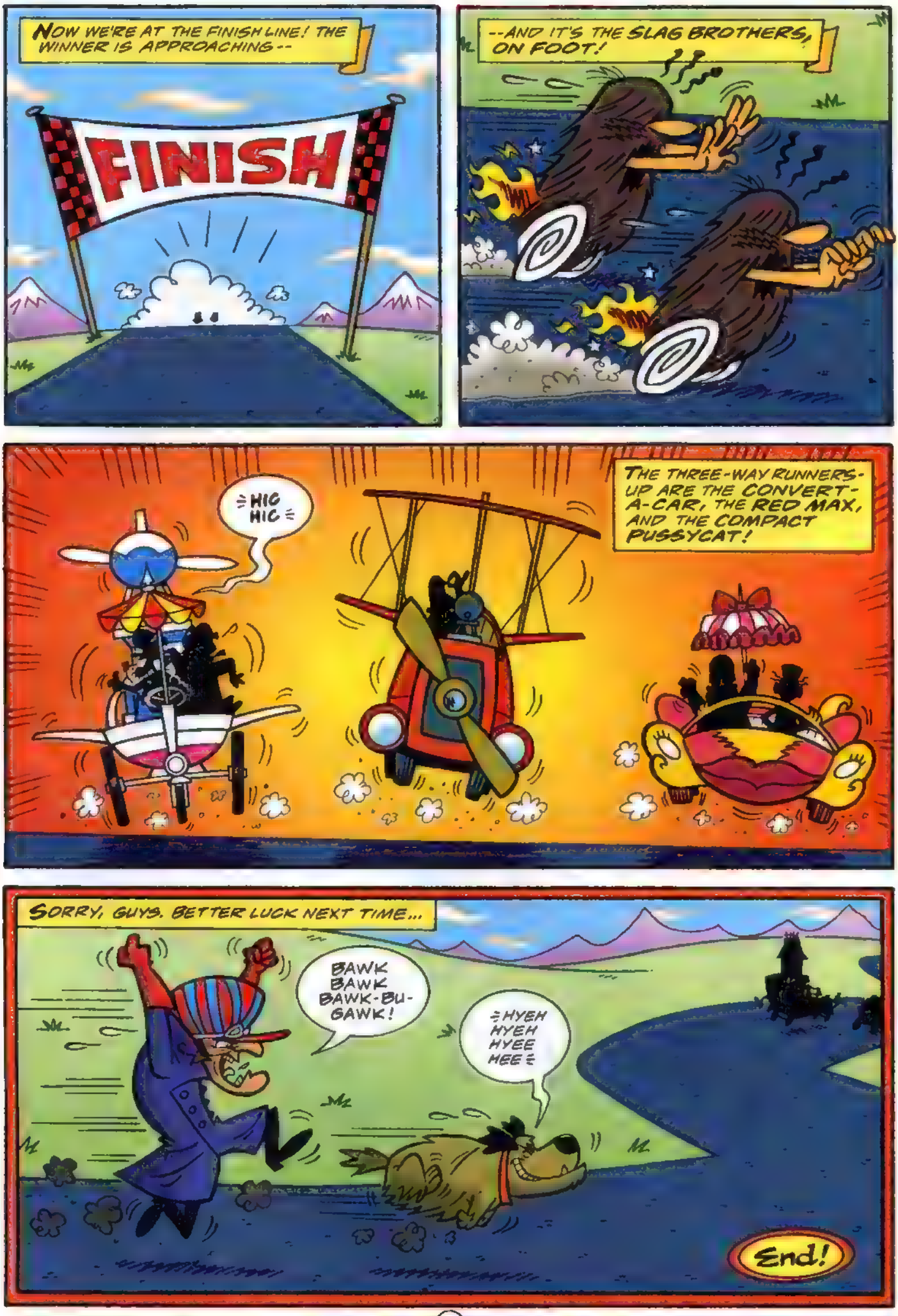

ROAR
YIPE!
OW!
OH, MY!
2
THAT WAS RUDE. WHERE ARE YOUR MANNERS?
SIZZLE!
Y'ALL NEED TO LEARN TO TREAT A SOUTHERN GAL PROPERLY!
SLAP!
THE SLAG BROTHERS ARE FORGING AHEAD, WITH THE CONVERT-A-CAR IN THE LEAD! IN SECOND PLACE IS THE ARMY SURPLUS SPECIAL!
OOG!
EEG!
3
POW!
6


THE CRIMSON HAYBAILER IS NOT TOO FAR BEHIND. IN THE REAR IS THE COMPACT PUSSYCAT.
MOVE IT, SOLDIER! HUT HUT HUT!
4
5
STOP THIS CRAZY THING!

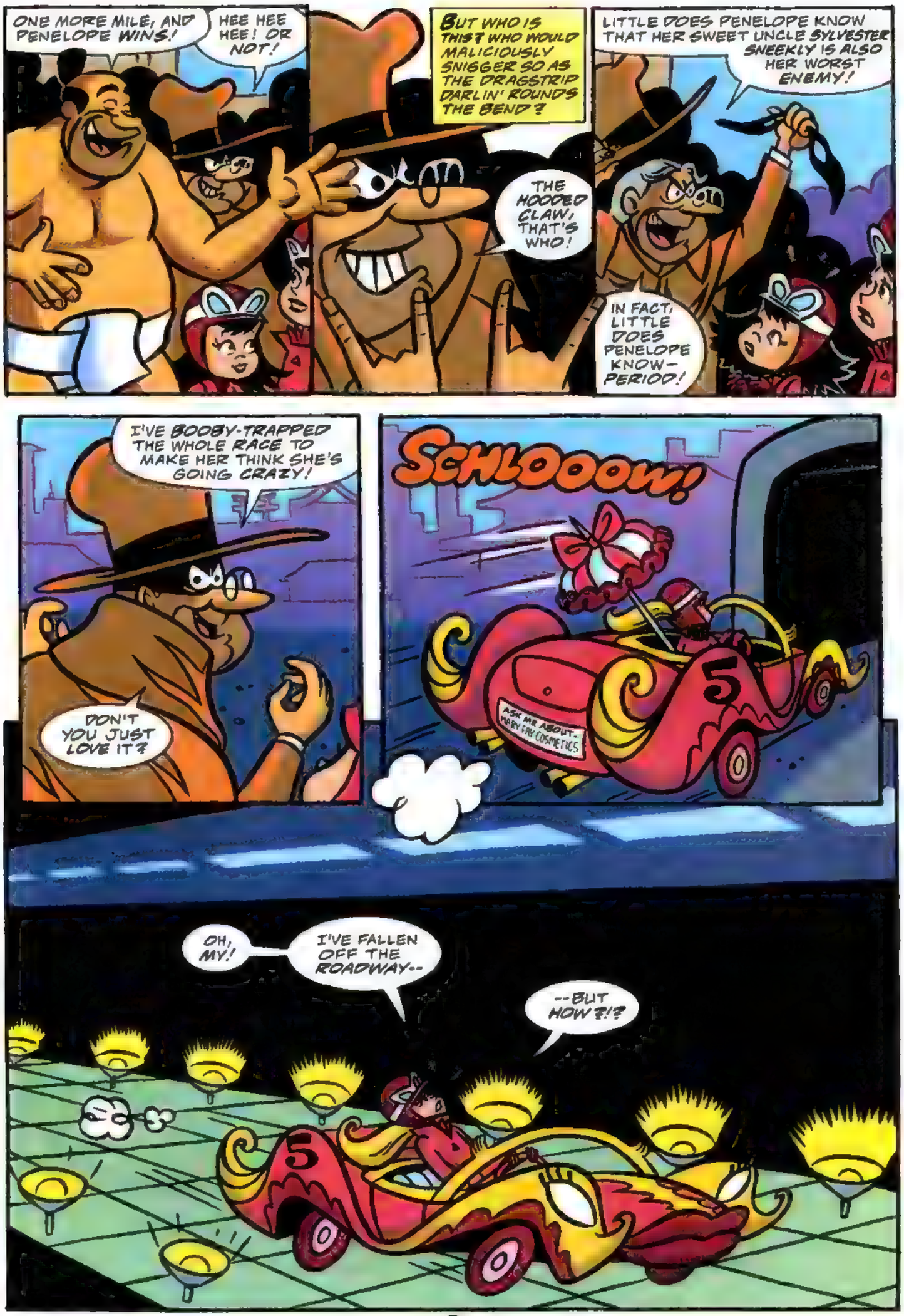

NEXT ARE THE BOULDERMOBILE AND THE BUZZWAGON--
I WOULD HAVE SUCCEEDED IF NOT FOR THOSE CATER-WAULING CAVE-MEN!
PUT IT IN THIRD GEAR, YOU YO-YO!
1
10

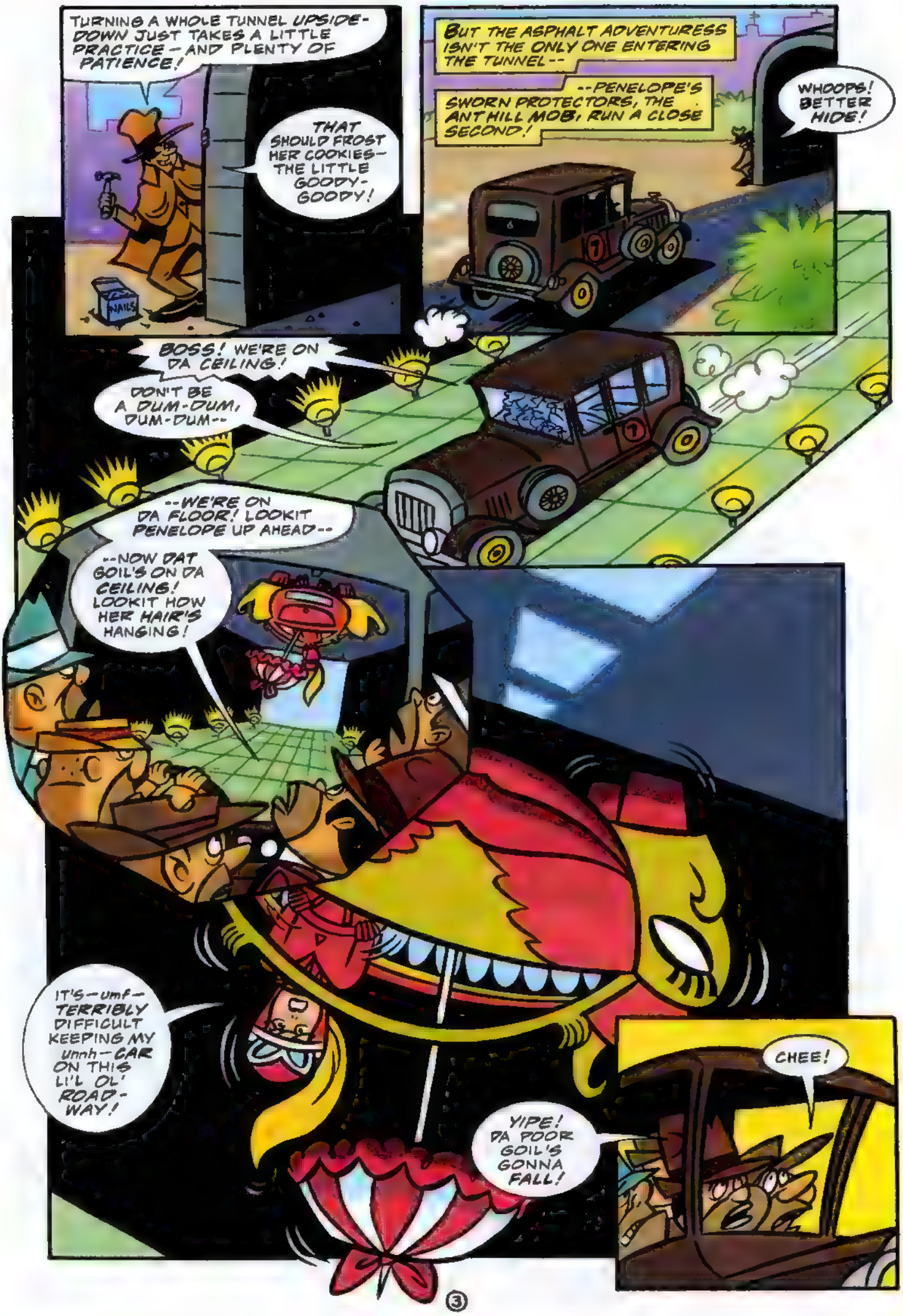

--FOLLOWED BY THE ARKANSAS CHUG-A-BUG AND THE CREEPY COUPE!
WHAT Y'ALL NEED IS A MAKE-OVER, DRAGON!
?
WE'RE STILL A FEW MINUTES AWAY FROM THE FINISH LINE. JUST OUT OF CURIOSITY, LET'S FIND OUT IF OUR TWO SCRAM-BLING SCOUNDRELS HAVE MADE ANY PROGRESS...
2
8

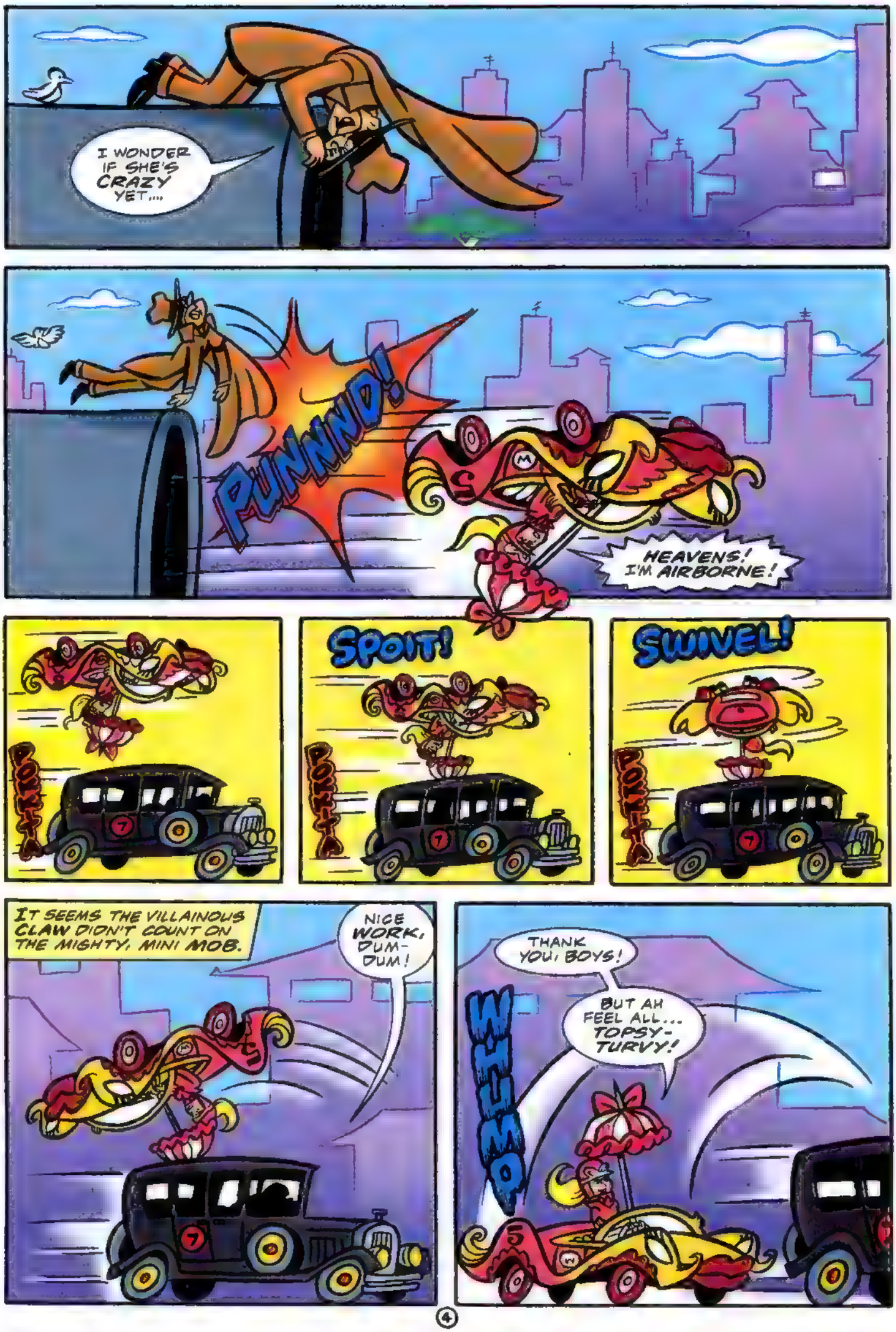
I HAVE A BOOK ON HYPNOTISM! MUTTLEY WILL PUT ME INTO A TRANCE SO I'LL BELIEVE THE TUNNEL IS REAL, NOT A PAINTING!
SNAP
HYPNOTISM
ARE WE READY, MUTTLEY?
YEAH YEAH, YEAH YEAH!
CRASH!
YOU NINCOMPOOP! YOU PUT THE WRONG SPELL ON ME! IN A SECOND I'M GOING TO TURN INTO A --
--BAWK BAWK B-BAWK!
HYEH HYEH HYEE HEE

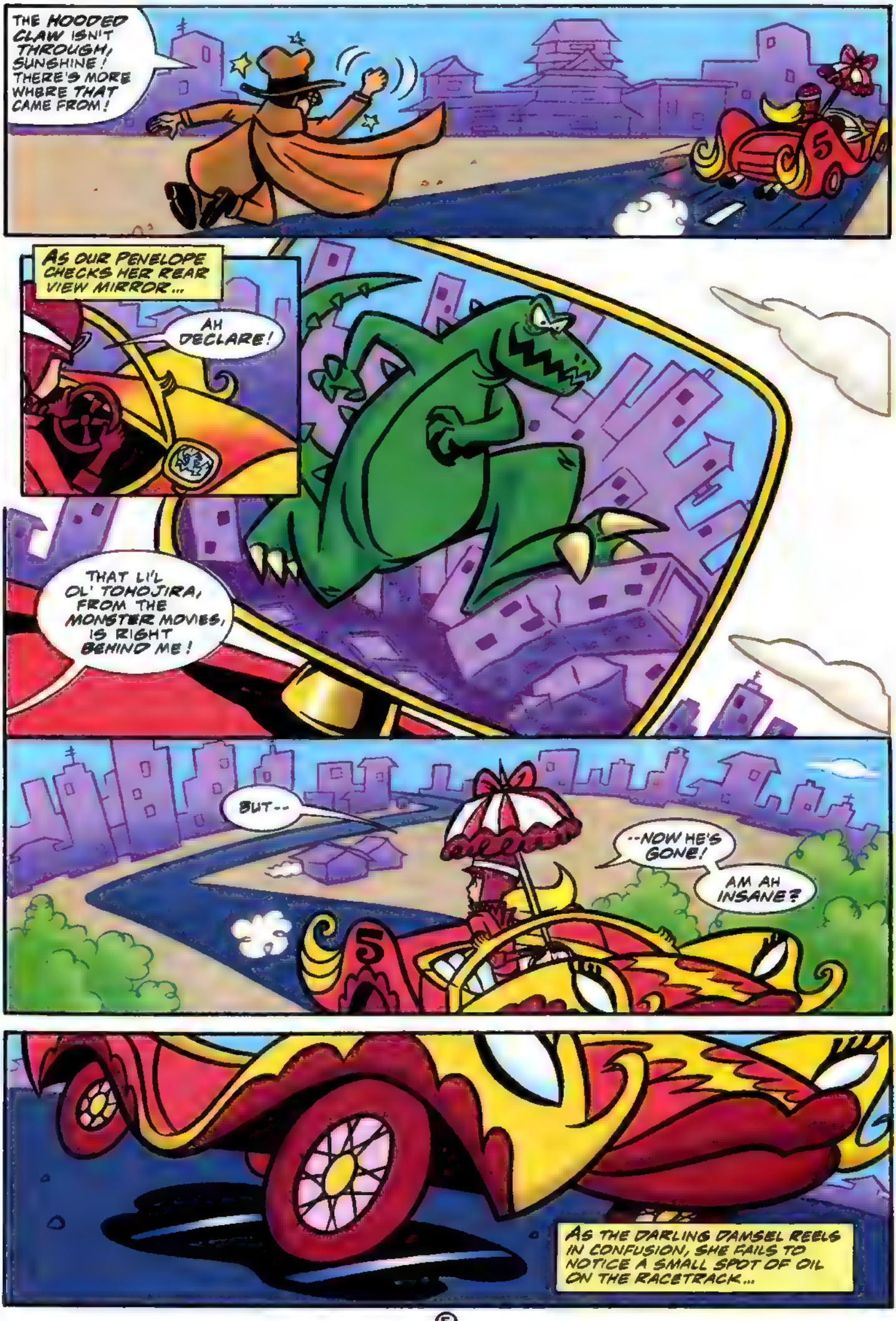

NOW WE'RE AT THE FINISH LINE! THE WINNER IS APPROACHING--
FINISH
--AND IT'S THE SLAG BROTHERS, ON FOOT!
=HIC HIC=
THE THREE-WAY RUNNERS-UP ARE THE CONVERT-A-CAR, THE RED MAX, AND THE COMPACT PUSSYCAT!
SORRY, GUYS. BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME...
BAWK BAWK BAWK-BU-GAWK!
=HYEH HYEH HYEE HEE=
End!

OUR STORY BEGINS IN FAROFF JAPAN--
VROOM! VROOM!
--WHERE DAREDEVILS AND SPEED DEMONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD COMPETE IN THE SUPER HELLO INVITATIONAL ROAD RACE.
THE SWEETHEART OF THE SPEEDWAY, PENELOPE PITSTOP, IS CLOSE TO WINNING THE SUPER HELLO CUP!
VA ROOOM!
5
THE PERILS OF PENELOPE PITSTOP
"PENELOPE'S PERPLEXITY"
MATT WAYNE--WRITER
BILL ALGER--ARTIST
PHIL FELIX--LETTERER
DAVE TANGUAY--COLORIST
MIKE BRISBOIS--ASSISTANT
BRONWYN TAGGART--EDITOR


ONE MORE MILE, AND PENELOPE WINS!
HEE HEE HEE! OR NOT!
BUT WHO IS THIS? WHO WOULD MALICIOUSLY SNIGGER SO AS THE DRAGSTRIP DARLIN' ROUNDS THE BEND?
THE HOODED CLAW, THAT'S WHO!
LITTLE DOES PENELOPE KNOW THAT HER SWEET UNCLE SYLVESTER SNEEKLY IS ALSO HER WORST ENEMY!
IN FACT, LITTLE DOES PENELOPE KNOW— PERIOD!
I'VE BOOBY-TRAPPED THE WHOLE RACE TO MAKE HER THINK SHE'S GOING CRAZY!
DON'T YOU JUST LOVE IT?
SCHLOOOOW!
ASK ME ABOUT... MARY KAY COSMETICS
5
OH, MY!
I'VE FALLEN OFF THE ROADWAY--
--BUT HOW?!?
5


TURNING A WHOLE TUNNEL UPSIDE-DOWN JUST TAKES A LITTLE PRACTICE — AND PLENTY OF PATIENCE!
THAT SHOULD FROST HER COOKIES — THE LITTLE GOODY-GOODY!
NAILS
BUT THE ASPHALT ADVENTURESS ISN'T THE ONLY ONE ENTERING THE TUNNEL --
--PENELOPE'S SWORN PROTECTORS, THE ANT HILL MOB, RUN A CLOSE SECOND!
WHOOPS! BETTER HIDE!
BOSS! WE'RE ON DA CEILING!
DON'T BE A DUM-DUM, DUM-DUM--
--WE'RE ON DA FLOOR! LOOKIT PENELOPE UP AHEAD--
--NOW DAT GOIL'S ON DA CEILING! LOOKIT HOW HER HAIR'S HANGING!
IT'S — umf — TERRIBLY DIFFICULT KEEPING MY unnh — CAR ON THIS LI'L OL' ROAD-WAY!
YIPE! DA POOR GOIL'S GONNA FALL!
CHEE!


I WONDER IF SHE'S CRAZY YET....
PUNNND!
HEAVENS! I'M AIRBORNE!
SPOIT!
SWIVEL!
IT SEEMS THE VILLAINOUS CLAW DIDN'T COUNT ON THE MIGHTY, MINI MOB.
NICE WORK, DUM-DUM!
THANK YOU, BOYS!
BUT AH FEEL ALL... TOPSY-TURVY!
WHUMP


THE HOODED CLAW ISN'T THROUGH, SUNSHINE! THERE'S MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM!
AS OUR PENELOPE CHECKS HER REAR VIEW MIRROR...
AH DECLARE!
THAT LI'L OL' TOHOJIRA, FROM THE MONSTER MOVIES, IS RIGHT BEHIND ME!
BUT--
--NOW HE'S GONE!
AM AH INSANE?
AS THE DARLING DAMSEL REELS IN CONFUSION, SHE FAILS TO NOTICE A SMALL SPOT OF OIL ON THE RACETRACK...

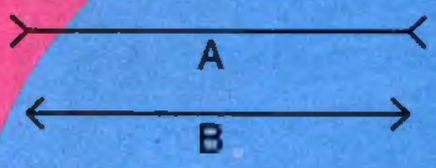
SKREEEEEEEEE!
OH, MY! WHAT'S HAPPENING? EVERYTHING'S SPINNING AROUND!
HEH-HEH-HEH! SHE SAW THE OLD MOVIE I PROJECTED ONTO HER MIRROR AND THOUGHT SHE'D SEEN A MONSTER!
NOW COMES THE CLINCHER!
FINISH
THE MOTORING MAGNOLIA FIGHTS TO REGAIN CONTROL OF HER COMPACT PUSSYCAT--
FINISH
--AND SPINS FIRST ACROSS THE FINISH LINE!
SHE WINS THE RACE AFTER ALL!

THERE SHE IS, MEN! MAD AS A HATTER!
UNCLE SYLVESTER--?
UNCLE SYLVESTER, AH'M FEELIN' A TRIFLE WOOZY...
SO YOU'D LIKE TO COMMIT YOURSELF TO A NICE HOSPITAL--
--AND HAND OVER ALL YOUR MONEY TO ME, MY DEAR?
I-IF YOU THINK THAT'S BEST...
HOLD THE PHONE!
PENELOPE AIN'T CRACKED, SHE'S JUST A LITTLE RATTLED, GET ME?
DAT HOODED CLAW WAS AFTER HER, AS ANY DOPE CAN SEE!
I CAN SEE, BOSS!
QUIET, YOU YEGG.
THEN AH'M NOT CRAZY?

OH, AH HAVE ALWAYS RELIED UPON THE KINDNESS OF GANGSTERS!
CURSES! THAT MEDDLESOME MOB HAS FOILED THE HOODED CLAW AGAIN! DRAT! DRAT! DRAT!
GRRR...
GREAT! THAT'S THE BEST NEWS I'VE HEARD ALL... ALL...
...YARK! YARK! BLAGGLE!
AND SO, AS THE FRUSTRATION BECOMES TOO MUCH, SYLVESTER SNEEKLY'S EVIL PLAN COMES HOME TO HAUNT HIM.
THERE, THERE, DEAR LI'L OL' UNCLE SYLVESTER. DON'T YOU WORRY YOUR LI'L OL' HEAD OVER ME ANYMORE.
G'WAN, PAL, GET SOME REST - YOU DESOIVE IT!
WUBBIDEH! URK! BEZTOOPI!
AT LEAST HE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ANYMORE ABOUT THE HOODED CLAW!
DA END!

Optical Illusions

Hey! Which of these two lines is longer?



If you said line A is longer, you've just been tricked by an **optical illusion** because the lines are really the same. (Measure and see for yourself!) **Optical** means something that has to do with sight or vision or how things look. An **optical illusion** is when you see something real, but for some reason you get a wrong idea about what it is you're seeing.

Don't worry: Everyone who can see gets tricked by optical illusions sometime. In fact, there is one kind of optical illusion that almost everyone in the world has seen at least once — a **rainbow**! Even though you see the rainbow, there is not *really* a big arc of different colors in the sky. The rainbow is an **illusion** caused by light from the sun being changed by drops of water in the air. There are several different kinds of natural illusions caused by light and water acting together; they can all be explained by the science called *physics*, and anyone whose eyes are working right will see these illusions the same way.

A different kind of optical illusion happens because of the way your brain works. Have you ever seen a lighted sign where it looked like the lights were moving? Old-fashioned movie theater signs or other signs with neon lights often make use of this **optical illusion**, which is created by having a row of lights blink on and off, one after the other, very quickly. Your brain works in such a way that it "sees" the series of blinking lights as being just one moving light.

A third type of optical illusion is shown in the story "Fair Play" in this issue of **Cartoon Network Presents**, when Dastardly paints a picture of a tunnel on the side of a mountain. The other drivers see a *real* mountain with *real* paint brushed onto the side, but they get the wrong idea about what they are seeing. Dastardly's painting is so good that it gives the **illusion** of being a real tunnel, even though it's not. This is not a natural illusion like a rainbow, or an illusion that's caused by the driver's brains. The other drivers think the tunnel is real because it seems to them that a tunnel *would* be built through that part of the mountain. **They are seeing what they expect to see.**

A lot of times when people are tricked by optical illusions, it's by this third type; they expect to see one thing *so much* that they just *can't* believe their own eyes when they see something else. A scientist named Adelbert Ames, Jr. did an experiment where he showed people a playing card that got bigger as the people looked at it. Because no one *expected* the card to get bigger, **everyone said the card was getting closer to them instead!** They believed more in what they *expected* to see than in what was really there.

Not every mistake people make in seeing things is an optical illusion. Read this sentence out loud: "The other drivers went though the tunnel." Did you read the word "through," or did you notice that the letter **r** is missing? If you read the word as "through," you had a mistaken impression, but that is not an optical illusion. **And you *can't* drive a car through a painted-on tunnel, anyway!**

WHAT'S UP?

By BRONWYN T.

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